



University of Alberta
Edmonton

S. H. Kowalski

University Library

Triennial Report
April 1, 1985 - March 31, 1988

University Library Triennial Report 1985 - 1988

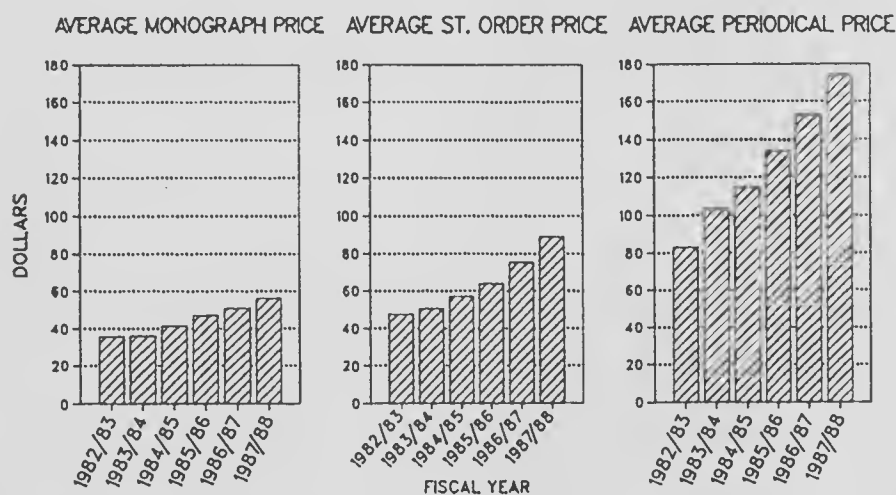
Introduction

This report is a summary of information concerning significant activities of the University of Alberta Library System during the past three years. Although high enrolment, heavy demands on services, rapidly changing technology and enforced budgetary restraint pose serious problems, the Library has moved ahead steadily. Services have increased and the Library has become involved in several new initiatives. Also, senior library management met in the Fall 1987, and identified a number of major issues facing the Library. The resulting working papers on these issues will form the basis of the Library's PACCR review that will begin in 1988 - 1989.

Funding

The Library is recognized as a major research library in North America. However, in spite of a substantial increase to the materials budget over the period, the Library has experienced difficulty in maintaining the acquisitions program needed to meet the teaching and resource needs of its users. All material purchases were affected, not just by the limited operating budget, but by external factors such as inflation and exchange rates over which the Library has no control. The average price of both periodicals and monographs has doubled within the last six years (Table 1). The most drastic response that the funding shortage has necessitated was the serials reduction project during which the Library cancelled 1,200 serials in the summer of 1987.

Unfortunately, there is no relief in sight. It is projected that 1988/89 materials costs for the Library will increase by 10.5% for monographs and 15% for serials, and suggestions of even larger increases for 1988-89 are being heard.



AVERAGE COST 1982-88

Apart from price increases, currency fluctuations have had a deleterious effect upon the Library's buying power. Over the last three years, all four of the foreign currencies with which the Library has major involvement have increased their costs against the U.S. dollar. While the latter has decreased in value by 10.4%, the British pound has increased by 47.75%, the French franc by 67.27%, the German marc by 78.57% and the Dutch florin by 81.58% since 1985. The recent strengthening of the Canadian dollar has helped offset some of this since the Library purchases a significant amount of material from the United States. (See Appendices 3, 4 and 5 for more information related to the Library's acquisitions).

The Library has been receiving gifts on a regular and significant basis. In order to expand this program, it was decided to appoint a staff member to work with the Development Office. Sylvia Dubrule, who joined the Library in September 1987, has assumed this task as one of her responsibilities. One dimension of this work is the new publication, Library Editions which is intended as a public relations and information vehicle to be published semi-annually.

Staffing

Tight budgets, four new facilities since 1983 and no increase in staff complement, (see Appendix 1) have led to various imaginative methods of coping with the Library's workload. Among these is an increased emphasis on the use of temporary positions and the government supported employment programs including STEP and PEP programs. In any one year the Library may receive as much as \$150,000 from the various programs. Such solutions are far from satisfactory since constant turnover increases the staff training component of the work and risks degeneration of services. The fact remains, however, that the casual staff component of the Library's work force has become an important factor in the Library's ability to meet user expectations.

Services

REFERENCE STATISTICS

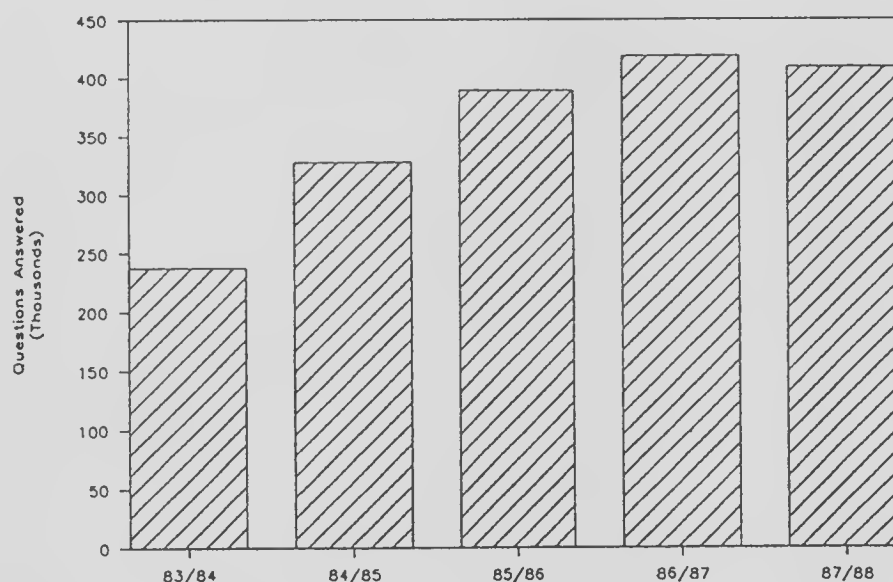


TABLE 2

The combination of limited staffing spread over the Library's numerous facilities, and the University's continued high enrolment, has challenged the Library staff's ability to maintain its high standard of proficiency. Circulation continues to increase (see Appendix 2), the Library is still crowded, and demands have increased on all services. Reference services continue to be in constant demand throughout the system with an overall increase of 24.9% in questions answered in the three year period. (Table 2). The Humanities and Social Sciences Library experienced a full 50% increase in demand during this time. Both the Winspear Reading Room and the Government Publications Library have found it necessary to increase the number of hours of reference service.

In an effort to ensure that service is available to all, regardless of the degree of congestion, the Library has responded with the production of library instruction workbooks, and the publication of numerous bibliographies, pathfinders and instruction leaflets.

This growth in demand has encouraged the Library to increase its efforts to provide formal bibliographic instruction. Over the years the number of students in the orientation and bibliographic instruction sessions has increased by 27.3%. More sessions, small groups and improved equipment and facilities, helped raise the quality of the sessions offered. (See Table 3).

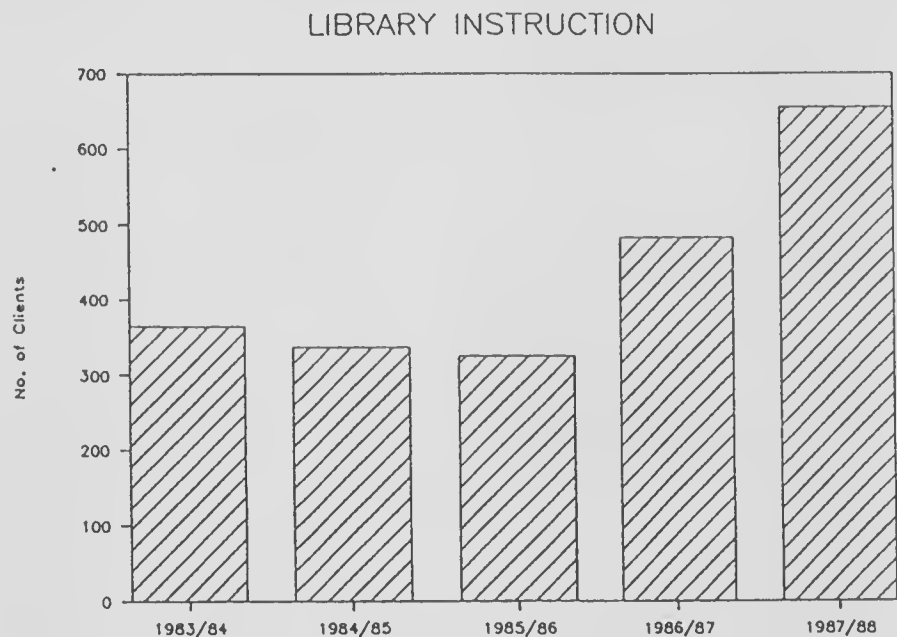


TABLE 3

The IRC continues to co-operate with both the Humanities and Social Sciences, and the Science and Technology Libraries in offering these sessions. The latest statistics available from the Association of Research Libraries suggest that this Library is one of the more active in this area. It ranked in the top 25% of North American university research libraries in 1986/87, when 11,168 students

were reached. The interest shown in this form of assistance has led to plans to offer more specialized subject searching instruction in 1988 - 1989.

The Library has strengthened its staff resource sharing program as a further step to improving service and meeting the expanded work load. Typically, exchanges have been made between technical services and a public service area of the Library. This program also provides staff with the opportunity to broaden their experience and their understanding of the Library's functions and so increases their skill in serving the Library's users.

The Library has had input to the University's review of its arrangements with affiliated colleges. The Library's representatives were involved in the evaluation of affiliated colleges' libraries with a view to assuring that the libraries are adequate to the demands that will be made upon them by the University transfer program. King's College, Concordia College, and the North American Baptist College have now been evaluated.

Special Collections

Early in 1987 the Bruce Peel Special Collections Library staff were delighted to learn that the University Senate had decided to honour each recipient of an honorary degree by donating a book to the Library in his/her name. The gift has already added the first English translation of Freud's The Ego and the Id and the Hortus Sanitatis, a major landmark in the history of zoology and botany which was printed in 1517. It was fortuitous that at the time of the Senate's decision, the newly designed book plates were already in process of production.

The Library has acquired several other exceptional volumes in many fields. A particularly important acquisition was the great Ortelius atlas entitled Théâtre de l'Univers which was hand coloured and printed in Antwerp, in 1587.

The Library has held several exhibitions during the recent past: "Bookworks" which included many old and unusually formatted publications, "Great Scott!" in honour of the international conference on Sir Walter Scott, and a display of works from the Javitch Collection. The 1987 Christmas display was entitled, 'Four Centuries of Milton's "On the Morning of Christ's Nativity"'.

Faculté Saint-Jean

The Library is developing at a very rapid rate, partly as a result of substantial financial assistance from the Secretary of State and from Fonds St. Jean (the Oblate Fathers). A change in the method of funding, made recently by the Secretary of State, gives Faculté administration control of disbursement.

The collection now exceeds 100,000 items including a selection of French government publications, although gaps in the collection emphasize the need for an increased materials budget. The library must still accommodate its own acquisitions and cataloguing functions because of its bilingual nature.

For the next 25 years the Faculté will house a significant historical collection which belongs to the Oblate Fathers. It will be located in the Salle Durocher, named in honour of Father Durocher, an Oblate Father who was the first librarian appointed to the Faculté.

Interlibrary Loans

Interlibrary loan requests for items not available in the University of Alberta Library System increased 58.5% between 1985 and 1988, a probable result of budget restraints on the collection and increased access to information through online searching. During the same period, the number of interlibrary loan requests from other libraries for material held in the University of Alberta Library increased 22.1%. More than 44,000 interlibrary requests were satisfied from the Library's collection in the past year. 5,482 requests were sent to Alberta government libraries, 30,764 to other libraries in the Province and 7,972 out of Province.

In April 1987, the Department absorbed the interlibrary loan function previously handled by the Extension Library. The University Library now serves as a library of last resort for interlibrary loan requests from public libraries within the Province that cannot be filled by the Edmonton or Calgary Public Libraries or by the Provincial regional library systems.

Facilities

In spite of limited financial resources the Library continues to grow and as a consequence, expansion of its physical facilities is becoming urgent. All facilities with the exception of the John W. Scott Health Sciences Library in the Walter C. MacKenzie Centre are at or near capacity.

The Humanities and Social Sciences, Law, and Education Libraries are all in particular need of more space. All are now constantly shuffling books from one stack to another and encroaching on student study space in their efforts to house and maintain access to their various collections. High student enrolment places study space in the libraries at a premium, so that reducing seating to provide extra space for collection growth creates further problems.

The Library is currently exploring on and off campus storage sites for the collection itself, and for equipment, as an interim measure until such time as the Rutherford West expansion, the University's number one building priority becomes a reality. It has re-patriated the basement area of Cameron Library which had been lent to the Fine Arts Department during renovation of its building. This area will be used for compact storage which will be available to the area libraries according to need.

Technology

The major highlight in several years was the installation of the online public access catalogue in September 1986. It has proved to be very popular with the student body, and has contributed to increased Library usage as indicated by the 8.77% increase in external circulation. Ironically, its success has been so marked that planned developments have been halted temporarily while staff deal with the situation of having reached capacity limits in the system.

Dial-up access to the catalogue became available to staff and faculty in 1987. Dial-up for external users is scheduled for the 1988/89 year.

Once system limits are raised, the next major project is implementation of a new circulation system which will be integrated with the online catalogue. Equipment for the current punched card system is obsolete and will be replaced. In preparation for the new operation, all incoming material since January 1988 has been receiving bar code labels instead of punched cards.

September 1988 was the last time that the Library will be in the Pavilion pasting labels on student cards during registration week. The Registrar is introducing a new student identification card with a bar coded number suitable for Library use. Library systems are being modified to understand this number.

Financial exigencies keep pressing. The reporting period saw the honing of one of the most sophisticated financial tracking systems in the library world for the acquisition of new material. Decisions on cutbacks are not less painful, but certainly more informed.

To make information about the collection more widely and easily available, the Library continues its program of capturing data in machine readable form. The online catalogue started with records of materials acquired since 1974. Special projects have added to the data base all holdings of the Law Library, the Music Resource Center, and the Computing Science Reading Room. Also being added are records for older materials as they circulate. The records for the material provided through the Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproductions concerning the period from 1600 -1900 are being added to the database as are government publications as they are catalogued. As of March 31, 1988, the data base contained over 860,000 records, making it one of the largest applications on the administrative computer of University Computing Systems.

Use of microcomputers is proliferating. Applications range from standard word-processing, to budget control with spreadsheets, to desktop publishing, to CD ROM services, to remote data base access. The Information and Reserve Centre has introduced a service which it is hoped will enhance the selection and management of microcomputer software and so minimize the number of incompatibilities within the system.

In view of the fact that the Library has accumulated a number of East Asian materials, including large gifts from Japan and China, it has become necessary to acquire a computer terminal that is able to handle the alphabets of these languages. Searches are now underway for a suitable terminal for cataloguing Chinese, Japanese, and Korean materials. Two such terminals are currently under consideration.

A further innovation introduced by the cataloguing division is the cataloguing of electronic databases available to university staff and students. These records are entered into the online catalogue, thereby providing library clients with suggested sources of information in addition to the Library's holdings. This service is unique to this library.

Online Searching

The searching of distant databases has become an integral component of library service. Area libraries are finding that online searching is often the most efficient approach to providing answers to reference questions, and more faculty and students are looking to the Library to provide the instruction needed to allow them to become efficient users of the technology.

In recognition of the need to meet these new demands, the Library was given project funding through the University's New Initiatives Program (NIP) to

design and implement an end-user education program targeted at graduate students. The first NIP sessions were taught in the Spring of 1987. Seventeen lectures and twenty six labs were offered during 1987. In 1987-88 these figures increased to 47 lectures and 72 labs offered to almost 600 students. Science and Technology, Health Sciences, Education, Business, and the Humanities and Social Sciences Libraries have all participated in this project. Although staff training and course preparation has been time consuming, response from participating graduate students has been enthusiastic.

A similar program for faculty is now being offered which is meeting with the same positive response. The faculty "After Dark" sessions replace the program previously offered by CITL. One hundred and fifty faculty registered in 1987 - 1988.

The new technologies are enabling the Library to provide improved access to information for users. In May, 1987, the John W. Scott Health Sciences Library began using Mini-Medline available on CD ROM. Staff and user response has been overwhelmingly receptive and there is now demand from the library's clientele for more such stations. Other area libraries also began to investigate CD ROM applications to enhance their reference services and all hope to have CD ROM stations in use before 1989.

Use of telefacsimile document delivery is gradually gaining momentum. By the end of 1987 most of the Prairie academic libraries had installed telefacsimile equipment, aiding interlibrary loan and making co-operative collection development amongst this group more feasible.

Collection Development

The importance of monitoring collection development was recognized in the Spring 1987 when the Library appointed Dr. Merrill Distad as Collections Coordinator to oversee and guide collection development on this campus. As well, the appointments of Alan Rutkowski as Slavic and East European Studies Librarian and Louis Chor as East Asian Studies Librarian emphasized the growing importance of these geographic regions.

A system wide collections development policy was written and work is now in process on sub-sections dealing with individual subject areas. The Materials Budget Processes document is a blueprint for securing residual control of the Library's materials budget from the GFCLC, which will henceforth only tender its approval in principle to the Library's division and sub-allocation of the materials funds. Furthermore, the various area libraries will assume responsibility for the local design and balancing of their materials budgets, subject only to the superintending approval of the Materials Budget Committee.

The Library's collection has continued to benefit from various grants. Since 1985, it has received over \$140,000 in grants for collection support from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. (For a complete listing of the Library's grants from SSHRC, see Appendix 6). The Library has also capitalized on the Alberta Advanced Education Endowment Incentive Program, which has doubled or trebled the value of individual donations. A list of recent significant gifts in kind is provided in Appendix 7.

Many staff members participated in the North American Collections Inventory Project (NCIP), the continuing international collections assessment project which began in 1985. Nine of the conspectus divisions are now complete, and work is in progress on several others. As a direct result of its participation in NCIP it became necessary for the Library to obtain access to Research Library's Integrated Network (RLIN), the home of the NCIP database. This network provides the Library with a back up to the UTLAS bibliographic utility, and has supplied cataloguing copy for 30% of the items for which searches are conducted on this database.

The University Microfilms International (UMI) matching grant project which began in 1985 is nearing completion. The Library received \$ 1,046,000 for micromaterials and equipment. By March 31, 1987 all the money from the three year project had been committed, and 3,000 titles were in use in the Library.

Co-operative Collection Development

In October 1987 the Committee of Prairie University Librarians discussed possible rationalization of serials holdings and co-operative negotiation of serials renewals. The University of Alberta Library offered to act as agent in the negotiation of discounts on serial renewal prices for a select number of major publishers of scientific and technical periodicals. To date, more than 50 libraires have indicated interest in participating in the project.

In 1987, the Library began a major assault against the various threats to the physical well-being of its collections. A salvage plan designed to reduce collection loss in the event of a disaster has been completed and disaster recovery caches are now in place. A collection conservation program began as soon as an evaluation of the current state of the collection was concluded. One of the major concerns of this program is to look into the degree of deterioration of paper due to acid content. It is estimated that 15-25% of the collection is at risk.

The Library has also considered the question of collection conservation beyond its immediate needs and has developed a proposal for a regional conservation facility. This would serve the paper conservation needs of our own University and would also offer services to other institutions across the western region. The proposal has received support in principle from the University of Alberta administration and both written and verbal support from western university library directors, but funding for this major project has yet to be developed.

Conclusion

The fore-going information suggests that fiscal and spacial limitations are beginning to restrict the Library's ability to provide more than a basic level of service to its users. Therefore the desired increase in graduate student enrolment, discussed in Draft Policies: the Next Decade and Beyond, offers both the University and the Library a series of complex problems to resolve. Such a prospect encourages optimism regarding opportunities for the fulfilment of potential at both system and individual levels. The challenge is to provide the conditions in which such growth and development will be able to occur.

Appendix 1

Library Data

	1985/86	1986/87	1987/88
FULL TIME EQUIVALENT STAFF			
Librarians	77.5	80.0	80.0
Other professionals	7.0	6.0	6.0
Support	279.6	278.0	274.9
Casual	36.5	37.0	41.15
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TOTAL	400.6	401.0	402.05
LIBRARY HOLDINGS (volume equivalent)			
Volumes (books/periodicals)	2,940,026	3,106,102	3,189,112
Microforms	2,167,473	2,419,901	2,576,334
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TOTAL vol. equiv.	5,107,499	5,526,003	5,765,446
ACQUISITIONS			
Volumes acquired	114,867	96,317	89,340
Volumes withdrawn	13,121	12,997	6,330
	-----	-----	-----
NET volumes (books/periodicals)	101,746	83,320	83,010
Microforms acquired	138,366	173,693	156,433
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TOTAL VOLUME EQUIVALENT	240,112	257,013	239,443
Average monograph price	\$43.46	\$47.61	\$55.06
SERIAL SUBSCRIPTIONS			
Periodicals	14,233	13,748	13,116
Other Serials	5,966	7,674	7,162
	-----	-----	-----
TOTAL SERIALS	20,199	21,422	20,278
Average serial price	\$154.66	\$163.59	\$169.29
AUDIOVISUAL AIDS	28,852	28,368	27,618

Appendix 1 (continued)

	1985/86	1986/87	1987/88
CIRCULATION			
Student/Faculty loans	1,234,818	1,342,693	1,352,922
Interlibrary loans (3)			
U of A faculty/students	10,899	13,320	14,015
Others*	12,617	15,702	44,278
*Others (detail)			
Requests filled			
Government libraries		6,585	5,482
Other Alberta libraries		29,265	30,764
Loans outside Alberta		7,342	7,972
NO. of SPECIAL BORROWERS (est.)	1,100	1,100	1,100
NO. ENTERING LIBRARIES	3,809,029	4,495,874	4,563,319
LIBRARY INSTRUCTION			
Bibliographic Instruction			
Students	8,392	11,168	10,224
Sessions	325	482	655
New Initiatives Project			
Students		510	579
Lectures		42	47
Labs		62	72
Faculty After Dark			
Faculty			150
Sessions			3
REFERENCE			
No. of people assisted	389,120	418,560	409,104
No. of computer searches	1,897	2,231	2,592

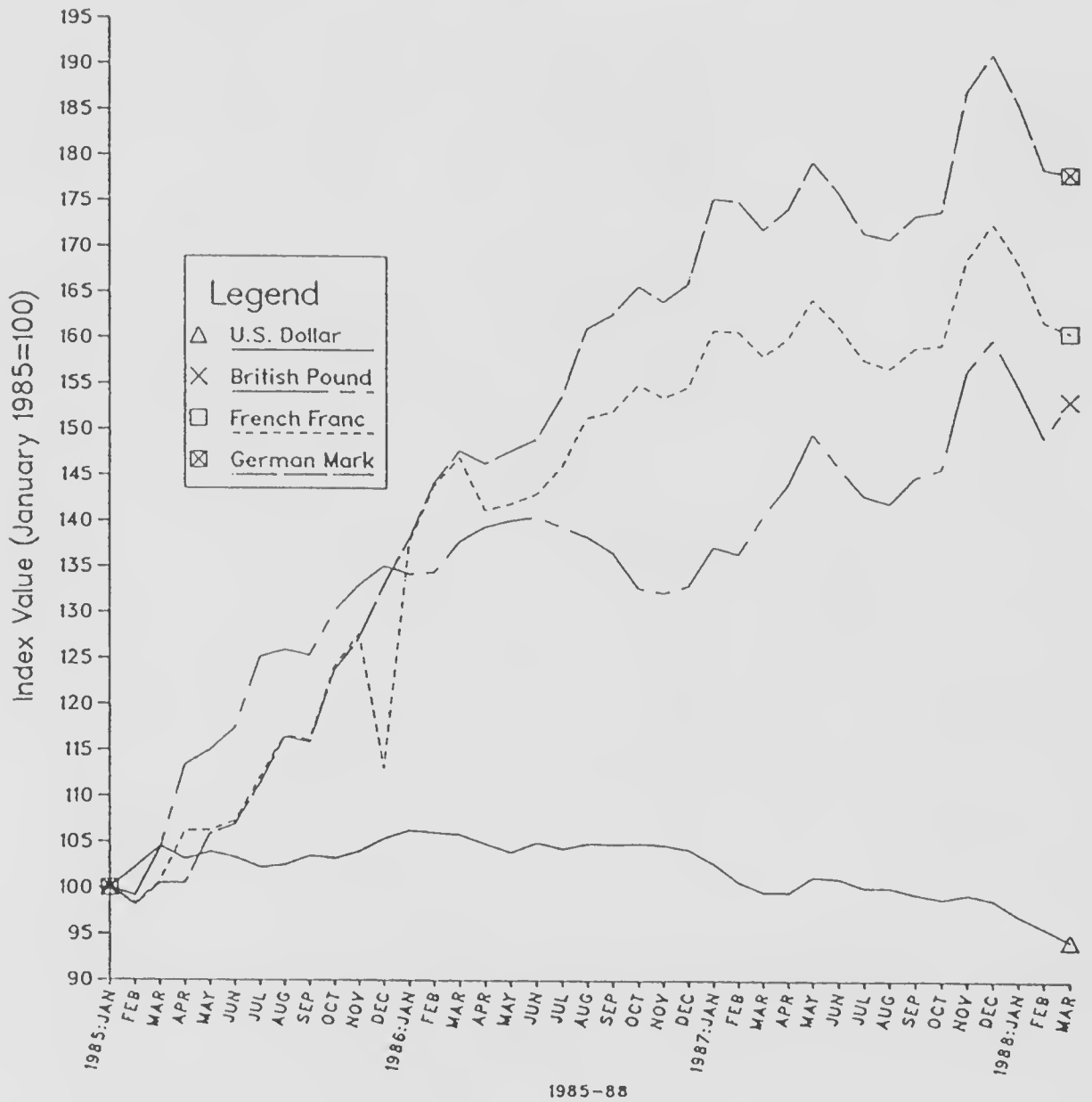
APPENDIX 2

University of Alberta Library Annual Circulation

Comparative Statistics: 1985/86 - 1987/88

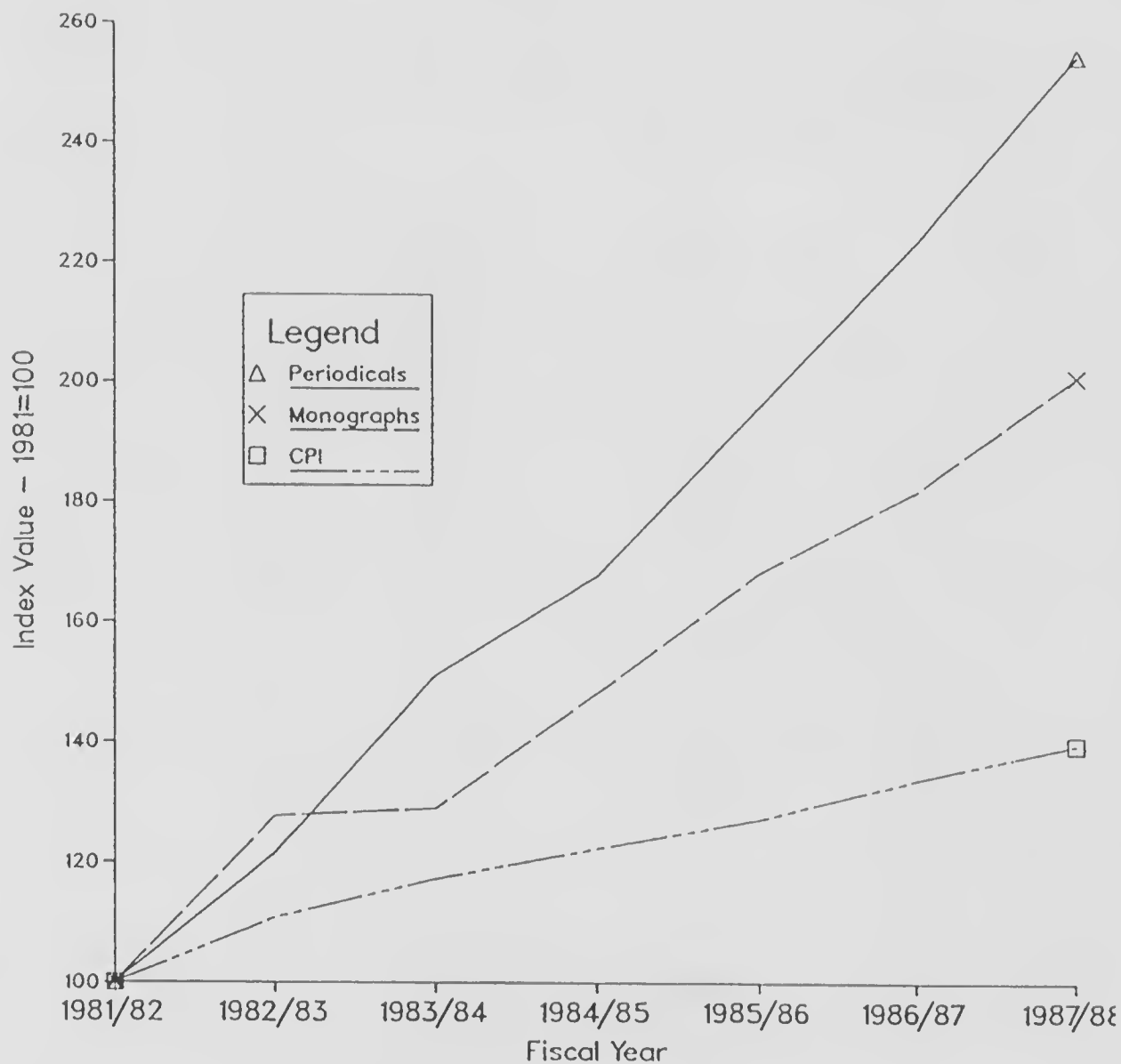
	1985/86	1986/87	1987-88	% change from 1985/6 to 1987/8
Cameron Library				
Science & Technology Library	132,982	150,878	138,580	+4.21%
Information and Reserve Centre	61,382	63,080	58,227	-5.14%
Freifield Reserve Reading Room	<u>140,231</u>	<u>157,883</u>	<u>159,702</u>	<u>+13.88%</u>
Subtotal	334,595	371,841	365,509	+9.24%
Herbert T. Coultts (Education) Library				
Education Library	107,545	111,958	103,595	-3.67%
Curriculum Laboratory	125,949	121,909	111,917	-11.14%
Reserve Room	<u>36,992</u>	<u>37,004</u>	<u>547</u>	<u>+47.46%</u>
Subtotal	270,486	270,871	270,059	-1.16%
Rutherford Libraries				
Humanities & Social Sciences Library	352,964	380,222	371,432	+5.35%
Periodicals & Microforms Centre	45,973	43,413	46,237	+5.7%
Winspear (Business) Reading Room	<u>2,194</u>	<u>3,406</u>	<u>4,191</u>	<u>+91.02%</u>
Subtotal	401,131	427,041	421,860	+5.17%
Walter C. Mackenzie Library				
Health Sciences Library	108,716	105,667	116,766	+7.4%
Health Sciences Reserve Centre	<u>71,095</u>	<u>99,091</u>	<u>111,441</u>	<u>+56.57%</u>
Subtotal	179,811	204,758	228,207	+26.91%
Others				
Computing Science Reading Room	7,345	6,358	6,171	-15.98%
Bibliothèque, Faculté St.-Jean	8,034	9,913	10,401	+29.46%
Faculté St.-Jean Reserve Centre	1,946	2,626	2,596	+33.4%
Government Publications	5,691	8,519	8,993	+58.02%
Mathematics Library	8,678	8,680	8,563	-1.29%
Bruce Peel Special Collections	175	170	163	-6.86%
Physical Sciences Library	12,732	14,558	22,004	+72.82%
Physical Sciences Library Storage	N/A	550		
John A. Weir Memorial Law Library	<u>13,194</u>	<u>16,808</u>	<u>17,396</u>	<u>+31.85%</u>
Subtotal	57,795	68,182	76,287	+32.00%
TOTAL	<u>1,243,818</u>	<u>1,342,693</u>	<u>1,352,922</u>	<u>+8.77%</u>

Currency Price Index



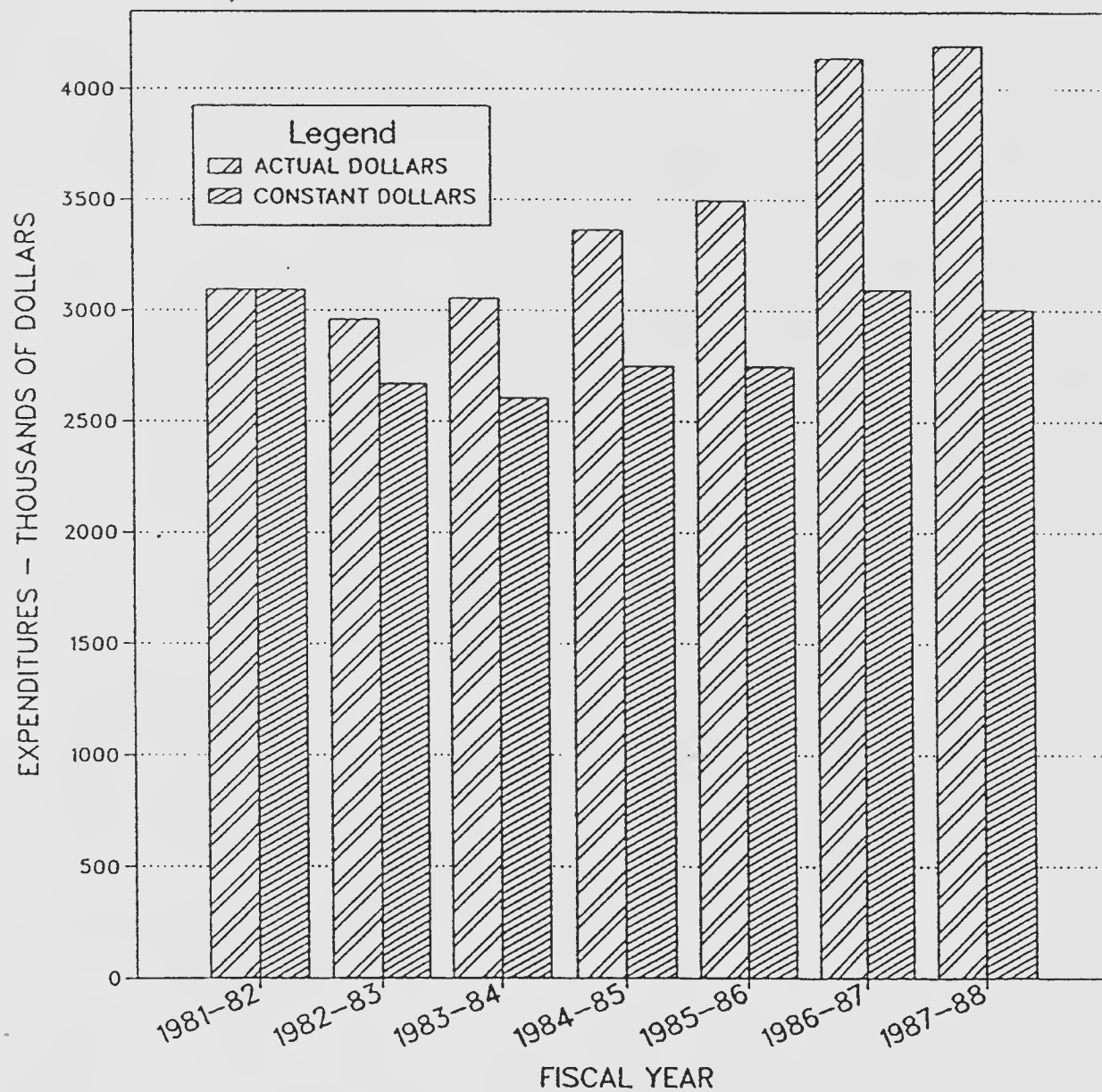
APPENDIX 4

Price Index for Library Acquisitions 1981/82 – 1987/88



Monographs and Periodicals price index numbers calculated using University of Alberta fund reports and Acquisitions statistics. Consumer Price Index (CPI) figures from Tables 62 and H12, Bank of Canada Review, with average value for each fiscal year derived from monthly "all items" C.P.I.

EXPENDITURES FOR BOOKS AND SERIALS



Appendix 6

Grants

received from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council by the Library between 1985 and 1988

Date	Amount	Title of Project	Recipient
1985/86	\$30,000	Romanticism Collection	HSS
	2,000	Slavic Languages & Literatures	HSS
	8,000	Home Museum of Artists' Books	SC
1986/87	10,000	Hogarth Press Collection	SC
	20,000	British Popular Fiction, 1770-1830	SC
1987/88	12,500	Romanticism Project Continuation	HSS
	10,000	Native Studies Materials	HSS
1988/89	10,000	Classics	HSS
	10,000	Fine Arts	HSS
	30,000	Business Materials	HSS

Note: HSS is the Humanities and Social Sciences Library.
 SC is the Bruce Peel Special Collections Library.
 Date is date of application.

Appendix 7

Recent Significant Acquisitions

77 volumes, largely of religious studies materials, donated to Faculté Saint-Jean by T. Bilodeau

152 sound recordings donated to the Music Resources Centre by J. Cooper

130 volumes of Canadian law and statutes donated by Esso Resources Canada Ltd. to the Law Library

38 volumes from R. S. Golosinski on mining and mineralogy

A donation from L. Green of materials on political science, and international law

Initial Reports of the Deep Sea Drilling Project. (Scripps Institute of Oceanography) - 101 volumes donated to the Science Library by Dave Monachello

Legal materials donated to the Law Library by Mme. Justice E. Picard

105 Polish volumes from the Polish Cultural Society

More than 700 titles from the Beijing Institute for History

Dr. Moyles' donation of 14 volumes by E. J. Pratt (some with dust jackets, some signed) and 2 volumes of nineteenth-century fine art journals

The rare books collection of St. Stephen's College, which includes numerous Bibles, Testaments, prayer books, and theological works dating from as early as the 16th century. Of particular interest in this collection are nineteen items in native Indian languages of Canada.

17 boxes of materials from the Alberta Association of United Canadian Ukrainians

18 boxes from Dr. P. Maximilian Edwards of materials on the learning of foreign languages, and some additions to his previous gift of materials on UFO's and the unexplained

459 volumes from the University of Sherbrooke

25 boxes of Japanese books from President Hiroshi Kurimoto of Nagoya University

Nine original letters from Joseph Conrad to Dr. Robert Mackintosh and the Dublin edition of The Works of Edmund Waller donated by Charles Jellard

A German manuscript dealing with religious regulations dated 1740, donated by Dr C. Gordon Craig